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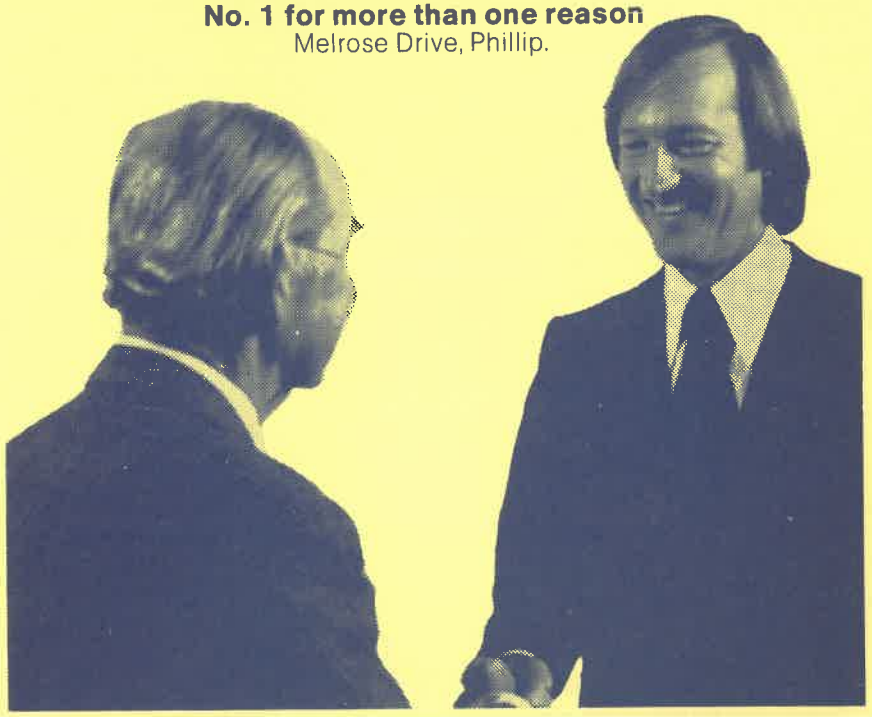
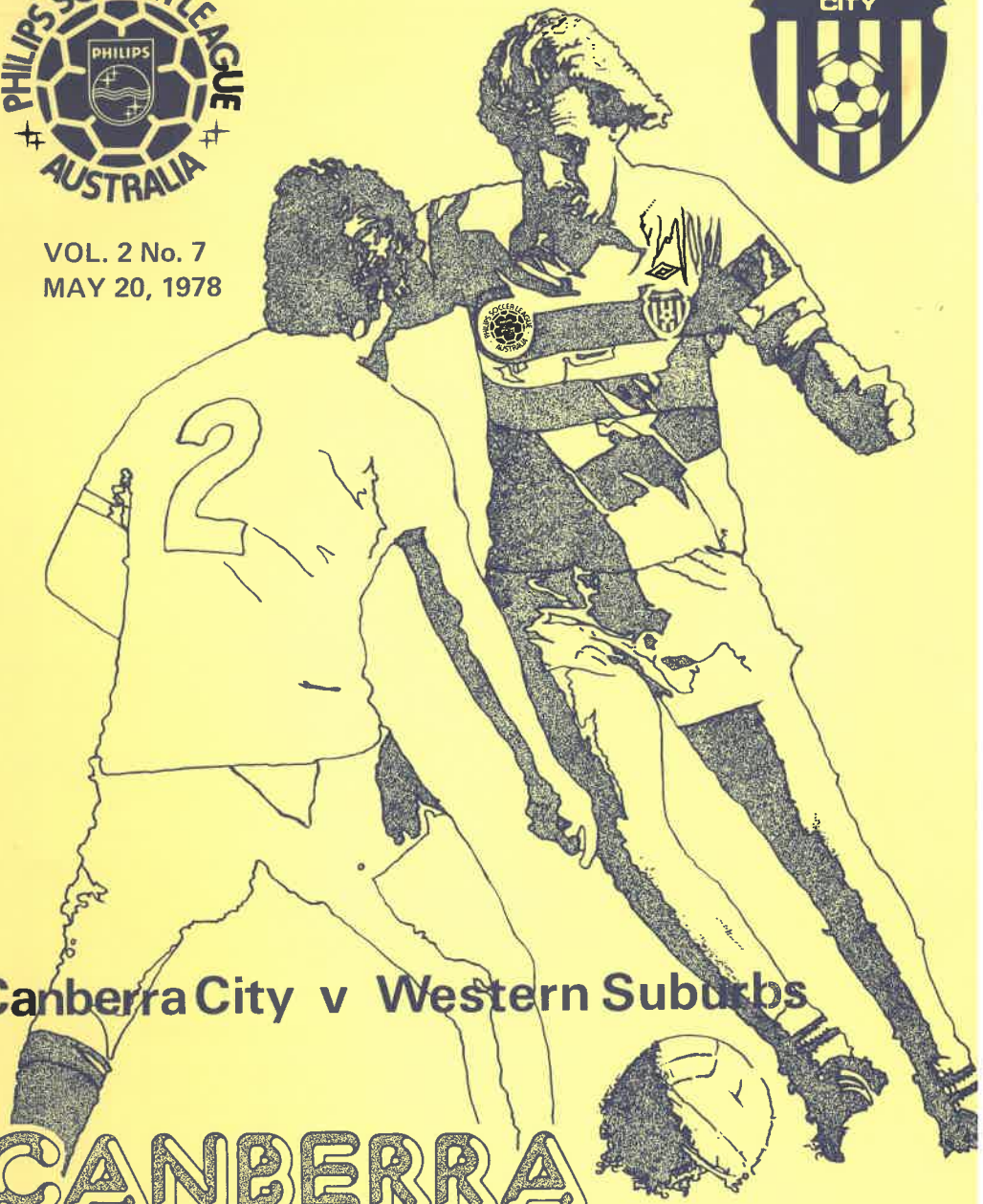


PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA CITY

VOL. 2 No. 7
MAY 20, 1978



Canberra City v Western Suburbs

CANBERRA SOCCER NEWS

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Canberra Soccer News

Official Journal of the Soccer Club of Canberra Ltd.

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All correspondence to: P.O. BOX 7, CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600
Soccer Club of Canberra Ltd — 179 City Walk — 488917

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1978 FIXTURE LIST

ROUND 12 (20-21 May)

Canberra City	v	Western Suburbs
Brisbane Lions	v	Footscray
Newcastle United	v	Brisbane City
St George	v	East. Sub. Hakoah
West Adelaide	v	South Melbourne
Sydney Olympic	v	Marconi
Fitzroy United	v	Adelaide City

ROUND 13 (27-28 May)

South Melbourne	v	Canberra City
Footscray	v	Fitzroy United
Brisbane City	v	Brisbane Lions
Adelaide City	v	West Adelaide
East. Sub. Hakoah	v	Sydney Olympic
Western Suburbs	v	St George
Marconi	v	Newcastle United

ROUND 14 (3-4 June)

Fitzroy United	v	Marconi
Brisbane Lions	v	East. Sub. Hakoah
Sydney Olympic	v	South Melbourne
Newcastle United	v	Western Suburbs
St George	v	West Adelaide
Footscray	v	Brisbane City
Adelaide City	v	Canberra City

ROUND 15 (10-11 June)

South Melbourne	v	St George
Marconi	v	Brisbane Lions
Footscray	v	Adelaide City
East. Sub. Hakoah	v	Newcastle United
Brisbane City	v	Fitzroy United
West Adelaide	v	Canberra City
Western Suburbs	v	Sydney Olympic

1978 FIXTURE LIST

ROUND 16 (17-18 June)

Sydney Olympic	v	West Adelaide
Adelaide City	v	Brisbane City
Fitzroy United	v	East. Sub. Hakoah
Marconi	v	Footscray
Newcastle United	v	South Melbourne
Canberra City	v	St George
Brisbane Lions	v	Western Suburbs

CANBERRA CITY GOALSCORERS

Ivan Gruicic	4
Terry Byrne	4
Ian Heywood	1
Brian Stoddart	1
Jimmy Cant	1
Roy Stark	1

HOME MATCH ATTENDANCE

City v West Adelaide	6,100
City v Adelaide City	6,485
City v Newcastle (rain)	3,400
City v Fitzroy	5,300
City v Footscray	4,700
City v Marconi	8,450
Total	34,435

(Total attendance for all of last season 23,150)

CITY'S RESULTS THIS SEASON

City v West Adelaide, home 1-1 draw.
City v Adelaide City, home 2-2 draw.
Olympic v City, away 1-2 win.
St George v City, away 1-2 loss.
City v Newcastle, home 2-2 draw.
Brisbane Lions v City, away 2-2 draw.
City v Fitzroy, home 2-2 draw.
City v Footscray, home 1-1 draw.
Brisbane City v City, away 1-0 loss.
City v Marconi, home 0-0 draw.
East. Sub. Hakoah v City, away 3-0 loss.

Last Year's Results

City v Western Suburbs	0-3
Western Suburbs v City	3-1

MATCH STATISTICS

CITY v MARCONI

	First Half		Sec. Half		Total	
	City	Marc.	City	Marc.	City	Marc.
Goals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penalties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corners	9	3	3	2	12	5
Throws In	7	12	9	15	16	27
Free Kicks	5	17	12	11	17	28
Goal Kicks	2	4	2	6	4	10

EASTS v CITY

	First Half		Sec. Half		Total	
	City	Easts	City	Easts	City	Easts
Goals	0	0	0	3	0	3
Penalties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corners	0	4	3	4	3	8
Throws In	13	17	6	10	19	27
Free Kicks	13	11	14	5	27	16
Goal Kicks	7	4	5	5	12	9

POINTS SCORE TABLE

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	11	8	3	–	26	6	19
South Melb.	11	4	5	2	13	9	13
Brisbane Lions	11	3	6	2	17	17	12
West Adelaide	11	5	2	4	14	14	12
Easts-Hakoah	11	4	3	4	19	14	11
West Suburbs	11	4	3	4	19	20	11
Adelaide City	11	3	4	4	14	15	10
Brisbane City	11	5	–	6	13	16	10
Newcastle	11	2	6	3	14	19	10
Footscray	11	3	4	4	8	12	10
St George	11	4	1	6	13	14	9
Olympic	11	3	3	5	13	16	9
Canberra City	11	1	7	3	13	17	9
Fitzroy	11	2	5	4	11	18	9

NEXT ISSUE

All copy for the next issue must be in the Editor's hand by Monday evening the 12th June. Copy may be left at the Club or with the Editor.

REMEMBER, that copy for the following issue will be required by Monday evening the 19th June for the home game against Olympic.

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"IT'S THE BETTER PLACE TO BE!"

GARY PARKER

Gary Parker, like Tony Henderson and keeper Ron Tilsed, came to City from South African Club, East London United.

Parker, 22, was born in England and as a schoolboy player, excelled by playing for both Sheffield and Yorkshire schoolboys. Upon leaving school he joined English second division club, Shefflied Wednesday, as an apprentice professional and was capped when he appeared on several occasions for England's Under-18 squad. Parker stayed with Sheffield for five years, making two second division appearances and dozens of Central League appearances before moving to South Africa two years ago.

He can kick with both feet and adds experience and understanding to City's defence.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS CANBERRA — TRA — tra — tra

How many supporters who have turned out for today's game remember last year's Canberra City-Western Suburbs match?

That event, held on the 23rd April 1977 proved to be very important indeed: it helped to make Canberra City what it is today and — perhaps this is not an overstatement — influenced the development of soccer in Australia. The fruits of that day are not yet fully grown, but there is every sign that they will be.

Yet the momentous happenings did not take place on the pitch, but on the southern end of the grandstand where, during this match, the CANBERRA — TRA —tra —tra was born.

The birth of the cheer squad was not an accident, but grew out of the conviction that what Australian soccer lacks is not so much higher playing standards, but match atmosphere; that soccer is uniquely a sport of spectator involvement at an emotional level, and unless the atmosphere conducive to involvement can be created, soccer will never be a meaningful sport in Australia. We have talked obout this for years and late in 1975 my son, Chris, wrote a letter to ***Soccer World*** (5.9.1975) bemoaning that vocal encouragement at Australian matches is virtually non existent, and Australians watch soccer games like 'stunned mullets'.

Hal Leslie in the Annual Report for 1977 referred to me and my 'inspiration' generously — but the creation of the Cheer Squad was really not an inspriation, but the result of years of thought processes which ran as follows: If we can have supporters here responding to matches as supporters respond to games in Britain and Europe, we are set on the spiral route to soccer success: Exciting, involved atmosphere brings more people through the gates — more people bring more sponsorship — more sponsorship buys better players — better players brings success — success

rings better spectator atmosphere — and ɔ to eternity.

I spoke about this at a foundation mem-ers' meeting in April last year and decided ɔ launch a cheer squad.

It was not easy. Through the *Canberra ïmes* I called for interested people to ıeet at Manuka, but only 3 or 4 turned up.

Ron Wilson, who was present at that ıundation members' meeting was my only ɜlper when on the 23rd of April I went ıt early to Phillip Oval to locate our signs ıd banners. At the bottom of the steps an row showed where supporters should go. he yellow cloth Cheer Squad banner, hich I painted the night before, hung at ıe top of the stand. It is now a holy relic ɜving seen all the home games and gone any times interstate to cheer on the boys distant cities.

We stuck notes on the seats — 'Reserved ır a new Cheer-Squad member' and 'Sit ɔwn here Canberra Supporter'. In small ɜmphlets we floated the idea of six or ven chants and one song: We Shall Not ɜ Moved. Some of the chants were based ı the three-claps pattern; We want more Tra — Tra — Tra. Another was Canberra A. — C. — T. Out of these two our now ımous chant was born.

But it was an uphill struggle. The match as dismal with 0-3 against us. We could ɔt sing 'We shall not be moved' because e were so much pushed around, but out f enthusiasm or sheer kindness some 0-15 people barracked with us.

During the week which followed Ron ıd Jack Evans began on their venture of ıilding a Supporters' Club, oriented ainly towards fund raising. Their first ɜnture was a bus to Sydney to the Olym-c game.

In the bus I recognised most of the 0-15 staunch men and women who dared ıe chill of the Phillip Oval a week before. uring the four hours trip, hearts and vocal ıords became synchronised, and in the idst of 3,000 silent Greeks, behind the heer Squad banner Canberra — Tra — Tra Tra took over the ground. We won a ıluable draw, gained the attention of the Sydney Press, and this forty member core of the Cheer Squad gained faith and confidence to grow soon to 400 and then to over a thousand.

Within months, the Canberra Cheer Squad became a legend in Australian soccer: interstate soccer writers, coaches were writing about us with envy and the crowds began to grow.

With the coming of the new year we have achieved the ultimate: we do not have a cheer squad anymore — we do not need one — In Canberra every single spectator cheers, particularly when things are not going in our way. If anything, this is the Cheer Squad founder's greatest pride.

FRANK KUNZ

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Director,
Capital Permanent Building Society,
Capital Savings Centre,
City Walk,
Canberra City, A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

A couple of weeks ago my family and I went to watch Canberra City play soccer at Bruce Stadium. My boys were excited at the prospect of the balls which were to be kicked to the crowd. Well, thanks to the generosity of an unknown spectator, my eldest boy Mark, received one of your footballs. It is his treasured possession.

The next week we were off to see Canberra City play again and I enquired from Mark who he would like to see win this week. His instant response was "Capital Permanent".

Well done for a very effective public relations exercise! Also thanks for the fun our family is still having with your gift!

Yours sincerely,

Les Beresford

c.c. Secretary,
Canberra City Soccer Supporters Club
(Please send me an application for membership!)

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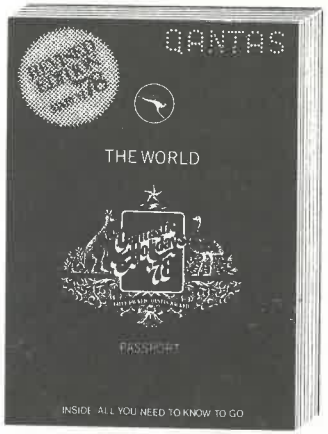

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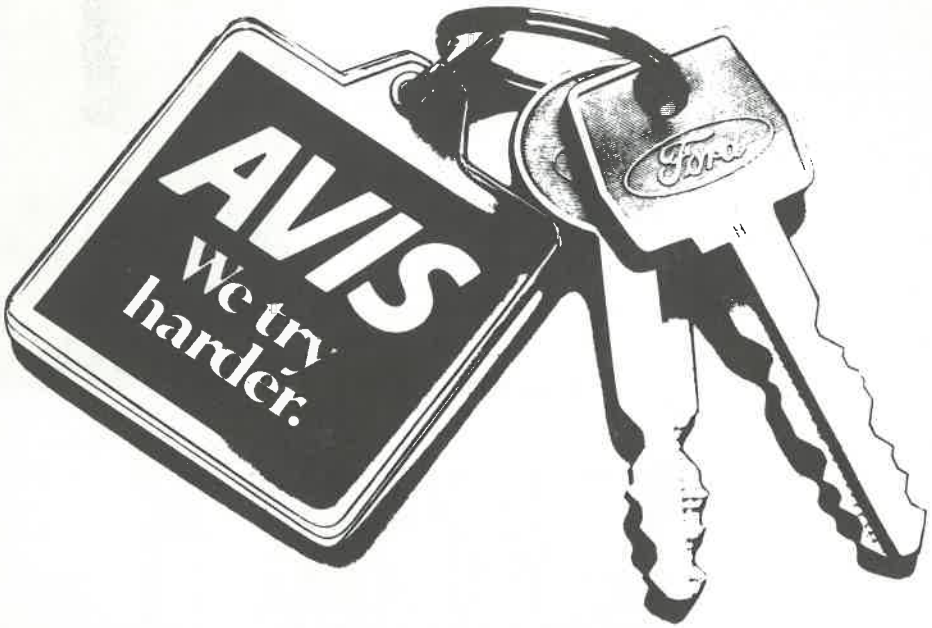

The harder it gets, the harder we try.

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49 6088
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Our Junior Club of the week is

CANBERRA NORTH SOCCER CLUB

The Juniors who provide the Guard of Honour and Ball Boys today come from Canberra North Soccer Club. The Club's history goes back to the early development of junior soccer in Canberra.

Prior to 1966, junior soccer in Canberra was non-existent, despite the fact that in the late 1950s and early 1960s, teams from the A.C.T. fared well in national competitions in the higher age groups such as U17 and U18 years.

In 1966 a limited junior competition was formed and three age groups, U14, U12 and U10 conducted a competition. Canberra North was formed in this year and fielded a team of boys ranging from 4 to 11 years in the U12 age group and did not win a game.

There was not much of an increase in overall numbers the following year but Norths were able to field an U12 team again and this time won the premiership.

In 1968 it was possible to enlarge the competition by starting an U8 group. Norths were able to field a team in each of the U8, U10, and U12 age groups.

In 1969 Norths growth continued with teams in U7, U9, U11 and U13. Premierships were gained in all divisions except the U7.

In 1970, it became possible to form competitions for all age groups from U7 to U14. Norths entered nine teams and won premierships in U8, U10, U12 and U14. All except the U8 side were unbeaten during the season and the U7 and U13 were runners-up.

The next year Norths won the Ron Harrison trophy for the most successful club and the O'Connor Pharmacy trophy for the team with the best goal aggregate by the U12 team.

In 1975 Norths entered the Football Leauge 1st division competition fielding three teams. They also fielded fifteen unior teams that season.

Many dedicated people have helped Canberra North along the way. Ray McGregor was the foundation president followed by Bill Fairbanks, Ron Clarke, Jock Cheyne and Don Rushan our president today. All were helped by an active committee of mothers, fathers and friends.

Norths are very proud of their ex-junior, Danny Moulis, who now plays for Canberra City in the Phillips League. Another ex-junior, Sebastian Giampaolo, is now playing with Monaro in the Rothman's League and was picked recently in the N.S.W. State side to play Derby County.

Norths' home ground is Hackett Oval. Enquiries about the club may be directed to the Secretary, Edie Crombie, P.O. Box 451, Dickson, A.C.T. 2602 or phone 95 6367.

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Today's Programme

12.45 A.C.T. Athletic Carnival, presented by the A.A.A. A.C.T. Branch and the Little Athletics. For further details on the Athletic Carnival see following page.

3.00 CANBERRA CITY versus WESTERN SUBURBS.

In the break the Athletic Carnival will continue.

Welcome

Today we welcome Western Suburbs — a team with a perfect record against Canberra. The question then . . . Can we avenge last season's two defeats?

City's players always try their best before their home crowd. Nothing less than their best will do against Wests.

They, like City, will most desperately want to win. City's need, however, is greater for a loss today would see us onthe bottom of the League ladder.

Under coach Mike Laing and the captaincy of Australian captain, Peter Wilson, Wests are always a difficult side to conquer. Wests, of course, have been around for a long time — even though they are the League's poorest-drawing club from a crowd point of view.

Thank goodness for the licensed club that keeps them solvent!

In defence Wilson will again be Wests' mainstay, ably-assisted by midfielder Brian O'Donnell, who arrived from England this year. He's an all-action player. Up front the Andy Scot-Clive Eaton partnership has proved most effective for Wests all season.

In short, they are well-balanced, in both attack and defence. What's more they are well coached and show great understanding and cohesion.

But with the League so tight they are in sixth position (only two more points than Canberra) and want to at least maintain it.

All games with Wests are robust and exciting. Today's should not be an exception to the rule!

OUR GREAT ATHLETIC CARNIVAL

The A.C.T. Branch of the Amateur Athletic Association of N.S.W., together with the Canberra City Soccer Club welcomes visiting Interstate athletes to today's carnival and wishes them well both here today and in their quest for Australian representative honours.

Today's meeting has been organised as Canberra's contribution towards preparation of Australian athletes for the Commonwealth Games in Edmunton, Canada in August, and it is believed that this is the only such pre-Games competition in Australia where interstate athletes will have the opportunity to compete against each other.

The visiting athletes will as well as competing against opponents from interstate, be competing against the top athletes from the A.C.T. The following list shows the competition numbers which the visiting athletes will wear and gives a short summary of each guest athlete's standing in the world of athletics.

(Continued)

Team Squads

COLOURS: BLUE & GOLD

CANBERRA CITY

1 RON TILSED
2 DANNY MOULIS
3 MIKE MILOVANOVIC
4 TONY HENDERSON
5 LUIS SALGADO
6 JOHN DAVIES
7 STEVE HOGG
8 IVAN GRUICIC
9 TERRY BYRNE
10 BRIAN STODDART
11 JOHN BROWN
12 PETER MARINELLO
13 IAN HEYWOOD
14 JIM CANT
16 GARY PARKER
17 GREG WILLETT
19 ROY STARK
20 DAVID LINDENMAYER

COLOURS: BLACK, WHITE & RED

WESTERN SUBURBS

1 WAL LACHOWITZ
2 ROD SKELLERN
3 WARREN TURNBULL
4 BOBBY NOBLE
5 PETER WILSON
6 DAVE HARDING
7 PETER STONE
8 BRIAN O'DONNELL
9 ANDY SCOTT
10 CLIVE EATON
11 JOHN VERNON
12 IAN ROWDEN
13 ALAN FISHER
20 GREG WOODHOUSE

A.C.T. ATHLETIC CARNIVAL
DETAILS OF PROGRAMME

12.45 Little Athletics Under 10 years boys 60m.
12.50 Little Athletics Under 10 years girls 60m.
12.55 Little Athletics Under 12 years boys 60m.
1.00 Little Athletics Under 12 years girls 60m.
1.05 WOMEN'S 200m featuring Denise Robertson-Boyd (8), Deborah Wells (9), Lyn Jacenko (10) and Linda Parr (11).
1.15 MEN'S POLE VAULT featuring Ray Boyd (6) and Robert Huddle (7).
1.15 MEN'S 5000m.
1.30 WOMEN'S LONG JUMP featuring Lyn Jacenko (10) and Linda Parr (11).
1.40 MEN'S 400m.
1.50 Little Athletics Under 10 years 200m girls.
1.55 Little Athletics Under 10 years 200m boys.
2.00 Little Athletics Under 12 years 200m girls.
2.05 Little Athletics Under 12 years 200m boys.
2.10 MEN'S 200m featuring Andrew Ratcliffe (2) and Tony McDonald (3).
2.20 WOMEN'S 100m featuring Denise Robertson-Boyd (8), Deborah Wells (9), Lyn Jacenko (10) and Linda Parr (11).
2.30 MEN'S 800m featuring John Higham (4) and Chum Darvall (5).

Half Time: WOMEN'S 800m featuring Charlene Rendina (12), Judy Peckham (14), Carmen Campton (16), and Allison Wrench (15).
MEN'S 100m featuring Paul Narracott (1), Andrew Ratcliffe (2), and Tony McDonald (3).

NOTE: The numbers in the brackets are the competition numbers worn by the athletes.

1 Paul Narracott (Queensland): Australian record holder and champion 100 metres. Pacific Games gold medallist 100m.
2 Andrew Ratcliffe (N.S.W.): 3rd placing Australian 100m. Australian representative at 1974 Commonwealth Games.
3 Tony McDonald (N.S.W.): 4th Australian championships 100m.
4 John Higham (Vic.): Australian Champion 400m/800m. Australian record holder 800m. Silver medallist Pacific Games 800m.
5 Chum Darvall (N.S.W.): 2nd Australian 800m. Pacific Games gold medallist 800m.
6 Ray Boyd (Vic.): Australian Champion Pole Vault. Silver medallist Pacific Games.
7 Robert Huddle (Vic.): Australian Pole Vault Champion 1976.
8 Denise Robertson-Boyd (Vic.): Australian Champion 200m. Pacific Games gold medallist 100m/200m.
9 Deborah Wells (N.S.W.): Australian Champion 100m. Silver medallist Pacific Games 100m/200m.
10 Lyn Jacenko (N.S.W.): World Cup gold medallist long jump. Australian Champion and record holder long jump.
11 Linda Parr (N.S.W.): 3rd Australian long jump.
12 Charlene Rendina (Vic.): Commonwealth Games gold medallist 800m. Olympic representative. Munich 1972, Montreal 1976.
14 Judy Peckham (Vic.): 2nd Australian 800m. Australian representative.
15 Allison Wrench (Vic.): Australian 1500m Champion. 3rd Pacific Games 800m.
16 Carmen Campton (N.S.W.): 2nd Australian 400m hurdles. 3rd Pacific Games 400m hurdles.

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FROM THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

What is the Supporters Club and what does it do is a question that is often asked. The answer is just about anything to help Canberra City. Raise funds, hold social functions, sell scarfs and beanies, buy flags and help out any place it is needed.

The supporters have already raised about $10,000 and presented it to the club at various stages. Our main fund rasiers are the raffle and a sneaky little game called 'Pick the Card'. We used to run the shops at Bruce Stadium until the Department of the Capital Territory got all greedy and hired the shops out for all the money they could get and left us to clean up the mess. A great bunch of sports, the boys at DCT.

So how can ***you*** help Canberra City in a small way. Buy a raffle ticket for 20 cents (6 for $1) or have a go at Pick the Card. All of the prizes are good prizes (we've come a long way from plastic soccer balls) and PTC is the best payer in town (it wasn't meant to be it just turned out that way). Try to get to the occasional function like the coming up Cabaret which will be a great night out. All the profits end up with Canberra City and it's worth more than $2 a fortnight to keep the team going. Why not try them all?

The club came about from an idea suggested by David Dillon and a lot of drive from Jack Evans. You can join the club for $5 and $2 a year after that. There is a really good discount list supplied to each member, so if you don't make money on the deal, you're just not trying.

Main prize winners in last week's raffle were R. Millucci of Macgregor, J. Simcic of Downer, P. Blanchard from Scullin and E. McCormick of Narrabundah. We would like to thank Pacesetter Carpets, J. B. Young, Daymik, Baron Trenk Restaurant, Sundown Drive-In and Kippax Meat Market for their generous donations. Thanks also to Claude Li-Chiang who has just about taken over the running of the raffle and is making it better than ever. This week's prizes are:

1) A Bean Bag from Daymik.
2) Dinner for two at the Baron Trenk Restaurant.
3) Double pass to the Sundown Drive-In, and
4) A leg of lamb from Kippax Meat Market.

The first of the year's two big events for supporters is drawing near. The mid-season Cabaret is on June 17th at the ANU. All the team will be there, a full dinner will be served and a good group will be playing plus putting on a floor show for our entertainment. The next event is not until the end of the season, so if you miss this one it's a long time between drinks. The club skims a few cents profit off every ticket so we need your support to make it all worthwhile. Last year's functions were a tremendous success and this year's will be even better. Get your ticket at the Supporters Stall or at the club in City Walk. If you can't do either, ring Ron Wilson (H) 88 7008, Ian Skilling (H) 88 2368 or Jack Evans (H) 88 2703 and don't leave it too late. Just about every event lately has been filled in record time and at $22 a double and $12 a single, we expect this one to go the same way.

THE MOTHERS' DAY MASSACRE

A record 3 bus loads of supporters travelled to Sydney last week for the Eastern Suburbs game. The coachmaster was Barry Venn who is our most travelled supporter. Barry has watched City in 29 League games and every cup game and denies he is a masochist. With Sydney based supporters and those who got there under their own steam, about 200 in all were all set to cheer the team along. Unfortunately, when you are on the wrong end of a massacre there is very little to cheer about and small boys waving blue and white flags rubbed in this fact with great glee. At least the team seems to have soved the problem of 'surplus goalmakers" as we have not scored a League goal since the problem arose. Last City goal was on the 22nd of April. Up until then our "surplus goal-

makers" had scored 13 in 8 games. Hopefully personalities are not more important than winning teams. Bravery awards to Roy Stark and Stubby who both travelled back in the coach with the supporters. What a great clubman Roy is. This is not the first time he has done this and he is a 90 minute footballer besides. Let's hope he never gets involved in a "surplus midfielder" situation or there is likely to be a riot. Only laugh of the afternoon came from one of our Lebanese supporters cheering up another broken hearted fan and saying "There, there, I haven't seen a win against a Jewish team for 30 years now."

Most popular visitor of the day was Senator Mulvihill who is one of the few pillars between City and DCT. The Senator raised the question in Parliament about DCT's rip off tactics and we might get a better deal in future. He has been a patron of the Supporters Club for some time now, as has John Haslem and despite political differences we could not ask for two better patrons. Some joy for the trip, City fans backed West Adelaide in the second game with some of their old gusto and the Adelaide lads lined up to give us a wave of appreciation after the game.

Mrs George Peat woke up at 8am on Mothers Day and got ready for 'Brekky in Bed' and a new pair of slippers. Puzzled by the silence she got up to find hubby and the kids had sneaked out an hour earlier and gone on the coach to Sydney. They returned home at 10pm and George has not been at work since. We fear for the worst.

Ian Skilling has asked me to thank Sue, Yvonne and Terri for the great job they did on the stall at Seiffert Oval on May 10. Ian was showing me the N.S.W. Liquor Licence which states that any money from sales at a game must go to the Club. If a private contractor runs the stall, all profits must still go to the club. This law came into force in N.S.W. in 1912. We could wait 100 years to get backing like that from DCT.

The Supporters Club has been assisted in selling raffle tickets recently by the Under 18 team, and in return they get a cut of the surplus to help pay their way to Brisbane for the Australian Championships.

Thinking this was a good way to help the juniors, Dennis Moir offered a donation if they would help clean up after the match. Seems this went down like a lead balloon in certain quarters. No way would the lads be allowed to help in cleaning up. Certain overseas star (no prize for guessing who) was saying he would like a dollar for every time he had seen players like Dalglish, Charlie George, Frank McLintock and others cleaning stadiums and doing work around the ground.

The latest rumour from DCT is that all employees have to bring in their books of fairy stories and DCT tear out all references to the story about the goose that laid golden eggs.

No more home games for another month. so now is the time to do all those jobs around the house you used to do before Canberra City came along. Don't forget the next home game is a real busy day with the Cabaret on that evening. See you there.

DES PICKABLE
(former Social Editor Balranald Bugle)

OVER PAGE — CANBERRA CITY'S RECENT MATCHES

TOP: No joy at Wentworth Park for supporters.

BOTTOM LEFT: Terry Byrne being tackled during Marconi match, crowd 8,450.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Twinkle Toes" Peter Marinello evading Marconi player.

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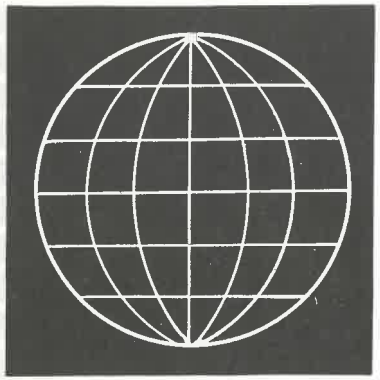

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Corison Comments

REFEREES? ROBOTS, ROBBERS, OR RULERS

Here in Canberra referees are copping a caning. The local referees are viewed as being incompetent by many vocal soccer supporters, and Johnny Warren for the first time in 20 years has publicly made disparaging remarks about the standards of P.S.L. referees.

Let us place the whole issue into perspective. Referees are human, they are not infallible, and they do make mistakes. They are not supposed to make mistakes, of course, and are thought of as robots dressed in black with built-in computers to make themselves incapable of making errors. Not so, obviously. The man in black, even after many years of experience is given top Australian ratings because he has proved himself to have three outstanding qualities — impartiality, consistency, and knows how to control. Think about it. No referee would deliberately set out ot rob a team. If he did, he is stupid, and like any dishonest person deserves everything he gets. But many times a referee is called unfair through no fault of his own — because his linesmen are incompetent. This is very important. If a referee has no confidence in his linesmen, then he is nervous about his ability to referee the match with skill and understanding. I for one think that the P.S.L. referees have had very poor linesmen in nearly every Canberra home match this season.

Secondly, a referee must be consistent. His decisions must be understood by players and spectators alike. If he allows a player to foul badly, and not punish him, and then severely punish another player the referee is asking for trouble.

Thirdly, and most importantly, a referee must be a ruler. He must control the game as unobtrusively as possible yet still keep a firm hand on proceedings. Many so-called good referees are technically excellent, but they cannot *control* a game or its players. Players swear, abuse each other, and foul another player. The referee must have enough skill, tact, and understanding to differentiate between the deliberate and the accidental, the serious foul and the professional actors, the skilful player and the opportunist dirty player. Many players are niggled into violent conduct by smart opponents, who plead innocence when the defending player retaliates. How many games have you seen ruined by the dingo player and the dumb referee who falls for it?

Having said all that, the standard of refereeing in the Philips League needs upgrading. How? I suggest the following may help.

(a) only Grade 1 referees act as linesmen;
(b) raise the physical personal fitness levels of top referees;
(c) pay them double what they get;
(d) protect them from idiots who run onto the field, and compensate them financially if such an attack occurs;
(e) upgrade their skills by giving selected referees experience in Europe, U.K. and South East Asia;
(f) bring world class referees to Australia as resource persons for all referees to listen to and watch.

There are five positive suggestions to the Philips League Management. Our referees ought to be respected as rulers, not computerised robots, or ratbag robbers. The League will suffer unless standards of refereeing keep pace with quality of playing and the quality of coaching.

CONGRATULATIONS

One more supporter joined on the 9th May. Natasha Brown, daughter of John and Lorna.

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